Alberta Official Statistics

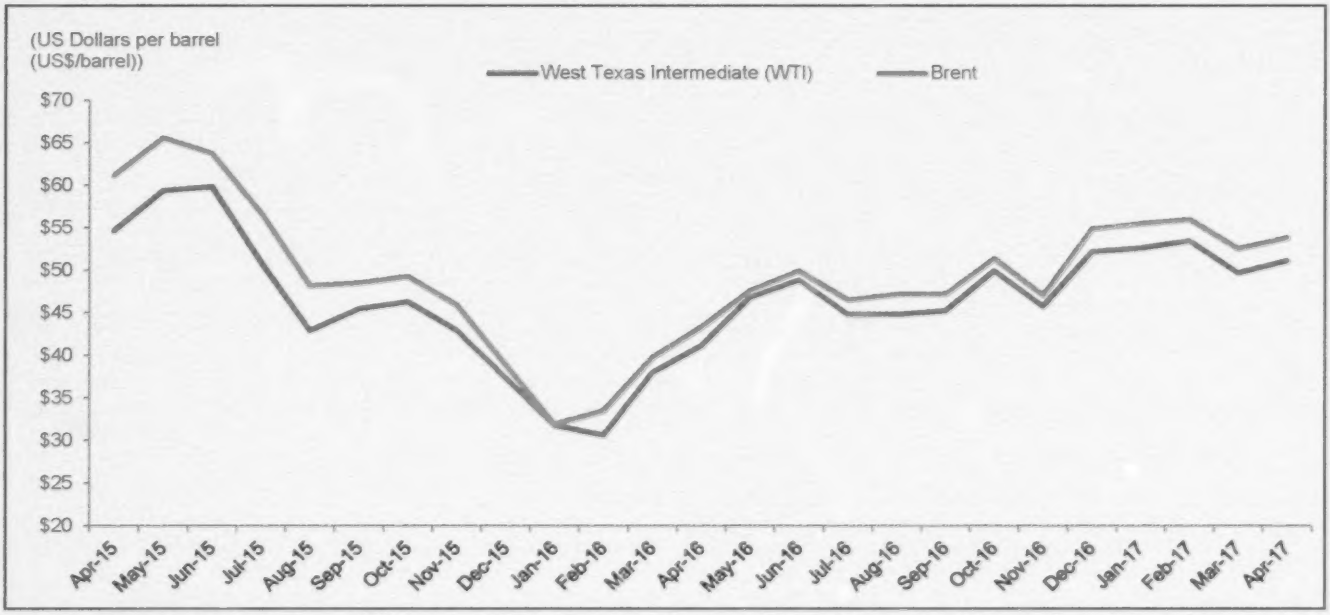
Light Crude Oil Reference Prices, Monthly

- West Texas Intermediate (WTI) is light sweet crude traded in Cushing, Oklahoma. The price of WTI is often quoted in media and other sources as "oil price". It is the main crude oil benchmark for North America.
- Brent is another benchmark for light sweet crude, sourced from the North Sea. WTI and Brent are considered the two most widely traded oil contracts. Similar to Brent, WTI can get international market access now via tide water (not land-locked) as the U.S. crude export ban has been lifted on December 18, 2015.
- Historically, the prices for WTI and Brent have traded on par with one another. However, the spread between the two prices started to widen since late 2010 as a surge in U.S. crude production, especially shale oil production, has caused a buildup of crude oil inventories at Cushing, Oklahoma. With the improving pipline access between Cushing and U.S. Gulf Coast in recent years (including the Gulf Coast Pipeline Project and Seaway Expansion/Twinning Projects, etc.), the Brent-WTI spread started to converge. The spread averaged US$1.72 per barrel in 2016, narrowed by US$3.12 per barrel compared to the 2015 average.

Note: Notwithstanding that this is an "Alberta Official Statistic", the energy prices expressed here are not administered by the Government of Alberta.

Light Crude Oil Reference Prices

Monthly



Sources: Monthly Oil Market Report © Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/International Energy Agency (OECD/IEA), 2016, based on data from ICE/NYMEX

Alberta Government

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Metadata is an important component of the Alberta Official Statistics.

Title	Light Crude Oil Reference Prices, Monthly
Alternative Title	
Creator	Energy
Category	Energy
Abstract	This Alberta Official Statistic presents monthly prices of light crude oil benchmarks of West Texas Intermediate (WTI) and Brent.
Full Description	This Alberta Official Statistic presents monthly prices of light crude oil benchmarks of WTI and Brent. WTI is traded on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) whereas Brent is traded on the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE). Monthly prices of WTI and Brent are calculated by taking a simple arithmetic average of daily floor settlement prices.
Time Coverage YYYY-MM-DD – YYYY-MM-DD	2009-10 to 2017-04
Spatial Coverage	Alberta
Data Source	Monthly Oil Market Report © Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/ International Energy Agency (OECD/IEA), 2016, based on data from ICE/NYMEX
Risk Considerations	None
Usage Considerations	Crude Oil means a mixture of mainly pentanes and heavier hydrocarbons that may be contaminated with sulphur compounds, which is recovered or is recoverable at a well from an underground reservoir. It is liquid at the conditions under which its volume is measured or estimated, and includes all other hydrocarbon mixtures so recovered or recoverable except raw gas, condensate or crude bitumen. For production measurement and reporting purposes, crude oil is deemed to be "heavy" if it has a density of 900 kg/m3 or greater, and "light & medium" or "conventional" if it has a density of less than 900 kg/m3. Crude Oil is sold between countries in quantities called barrels (bbl). There are approximately 159 litres (42 US gallons) of oil in a barrel. Crude postings are generally indicative as to how the market values certain crudes. Postings are posted by refineries and tend to be more like a bid to buy than an offer to sell and therefore are generally lower than market price. Tight light oil, also known as tight shale oil, is found in sedimentary rock formations that are characterized by very low permeability. The flow of oil from the rock to the well bore is limited by the largely impermeable fine-grained nature of the oil-hosting rock thus the basis for the term "tight". While some tight light oil plays produce oil directly from shales, most tight oil is produced from low-permeability siltstones, sandstones, limestones and dolostones that are associated with the shales from which the oil has been generated. Oil trapped in these relatively impermeable rock units requires well stimulation techniques including horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing. International Energy Agency's (IEA) monthly reports can be accessed from this site: *https://www.iea.org/publications/oilmarketreport/*
Supporting Documents	
Related Products	
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